

REMARKS

Claims 3-6 remain in this application. Claims 1-2 were previously canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The comments provided by the Examiner in section 4 on page 3 of the Office Action are acknowledged with appreciation. Each of claims 4 and 6 is rewritten in independent form above and should now be allowable.

Independent claims 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,511,306 to Hultgren. Reconsideration is requested.

The Hultgren patent concerns a compressor diaphragm assembly in which stator vanes are suspended on the housing by two groove-and-hook type connections at an outer platform. There is no suspension at the inner platform. Each vane is secured against axial and circumferential motion by an axial screw or bolt 64 traversing a radially elongated hole 28 in the "hook" or stem portion 20. Small radial motion of the Hultgren vane relative to the housing is possible, the Hultgren screw or bolt 64 and stem portion 20 are required to bear significant loads, and the screw or bolt and the stem portion are only accessible when the Hultgren turbine module is disassembled.

According to the present invention, by contrast, guide vanes are fixed by one groove-hook-type connection at the outer platform, one bar-type connection at the outer platform, and another bar type connection at the inner platform. The vanes are secured against circumferential motion or rotation by way of a radial pin, such as a pin 46, that engages a slot, such as a slot 42 in an hook-shaped projection 40. These items are required to bear circumferential loads

only, and the pin (or pins) are accessible from outside the housing, even if the turbine module is assembled. It is respectfully submitted that the Hultgren patent does not disclose an arrangement for fixing a guide blade segment as now specified, in combination with the other limitations set forth, a guide blade segment that is held and secured against rotation by way of a substantially radially extending pin that engages in a slot defined in a hook as claim 3 now defines. Currently amended claim 3 is thus not anticipated by the Hultgren patent disclosure.

Currently amended claim 5 is directed to a process of fixing a guide blade segment, but includes essentially the same language as that in claim 3 discussed above. Claim 5 as it appears above is also not anticipated by the Hultgren patent disclosure.

Independent claims 3 and 5 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,022,818 to Scalzo. Reconsideration of this rejection is also requested.

The Scalzo patent relates to stator vane segments for compressors that are suspended by a housing by two groove-hook type connections at an outer platform. There is no suspension at the inner platform; instead, only a rotating seal is present. The Scalzo vane segments are secured against circumferential motion by circumferential/tangential retaining screws 90. Such a construction is feasible only if the compressor has a longitudinally divided housing or "split case." The screws 90 are only accessible when the compressor is not assembled.

It is respectfully submitted that the Scalzo patent also fails to disclose an arrangement for fixing a guide blade segment as now specified, in combination with the other limitations set forth, a guide blade segment that is held and secured against rotation by way of a substantially radially extending pin that engages in a slot defined in a hook as claim 3 now defines, and that claim 3 above is not anticipated by the Scalzo patent as a result. Again, currently amended claim 5 is directed to a process of fixing a guide blade segment, but includes essentially the same language as that in claim 3 discussed above. It follows, therefore, that claim 5 as it appears above is also not anticipated by the Scalzo patent disclosure.

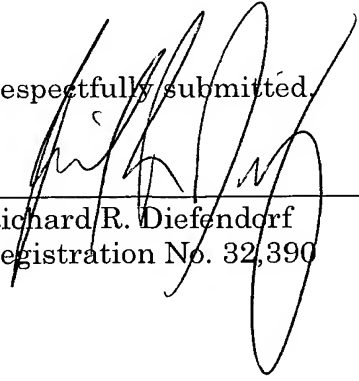
The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) set forth by the Examiner are no longer applicable for reasons discussed above. Nothing noted by the Examiner in the Office Action suggests modifying either the Hultgren structure or the Scalzo assembly to meet the limitations discussed, moreover, and it is respectfully submitted that claims 3 and 5 above are allowable along with claims 4 and 6.

This application should now be in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #011235.55324US).

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Respectfully submitted,



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